

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: DEVELOPMENTS DURING NOVEMBER IN

VENEZUELA

FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE ARA MONTHLY REPORT ON
NARCOTICS CONTROL DEVELOPMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE
SUBMITTED WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA FOR THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER:

A. A REVIEW OF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STATISTICS
INDICATES THAT SINCE JULY 1972 THERE HAS BEEN A
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ARRESTS FOR AND SEIZURES OF
COCAINE, LSD, HASHISH, AND MARIJUANA. THE ONLY SEIZURE
AND ARRESTS INVOLVING HEROIN OCCURRED IN AUGUST 1972.
THE STATISTICS INDICATE A DECREASE IN THE ABUSE OF "UP"
AND "DOWN" DRUGS.

B. DEA COOPERATED IN TWO COCAINE SEIZURES. ON
NOVEMBER 2 FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED BY
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AUTHORITIES IN ARUBA ON THE FERRY
BOAT OPERATING BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES, AND SEVEN PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. THE VENEZUELAN

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TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ) COOPERATED WITH DEA AND

THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES' AUTHORITIES IN THESE ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. ON NOVEMBER 10, THE PTJ SEIZED TWO KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE AND ARRESTED TWO COLOMBIANS AND ONE VENEZUELAN.

C. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL RECENT SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN FROM EUROPE TO VENEZUELA, FOR STORAGE HERE AND EVENTUAL SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.

D. NARCOTIC MUSHROOMS APPEAR TO BE GROWING IN ABUNDANCE IN THE ANDEAN REGION OF VENEZUELA, AND ABUSE OF THE SAME IS REPORTEDLY INCREASING.

E. ACCORDING TO A PRESS ACCOUNT OF A RECENT PTJ STUDY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1,000 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA ENTER VENEZUELA FROM COLOMBIA EACH MONTH. AN ESTIMATED 50,000 PERSONS IN CARACAS ARE SAID TO USE MARIJUANA WITH SOME FREQUENCY.

F. THE FIRST CONFERENCE BRINGING TOGETHER THE COMMISSION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS AND KEY OFFICIALS OF THE DRUG ABUSE COMMISSIONS IN THE VARIOUS STATES TOOK PLACE IN CARACAS NOVEMBER 1-3.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEA ARE REVIEWING A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING NARCOTICS CONTROL NEEDS AT THE PORT OF LA GUAIRA.

H. THREE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS (TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AGAINST THE ILLEGAL USE OF DRUGS AND THE CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST OF THE PTJ) ARE ATTENDING THE AID-SPONSORED DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION SEMINAR, WHICH BEGAN IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON NOVEMBER 27.

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